

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: HAZARDOUS WASTE PILOT STUDY--RECOMMENDED
PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT MEETING,
LONDON, OCTOBER 23-24, 1975

1. SUMMARY: DELEGATES FROM CANADA, DENMARK, THE FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, THE UK, AND THE USA, AND AN OBSERVER FROM JAPAN, ATTENDED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE "GUIDELINES" SUB-PROJECT OF THE CCMS HAZARDOUS WASTE PILOT STUDY. DELEGATES ADOPTED "RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT" AS THE NEW NAME OF THE US-LED SUB-PROJECT. THE MEETING WAS HOSTED BY THE UK DEPT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND FOLLOWED A THREE-DAY MEETING ON THE UK-LED PROJECT ON LANDFILL DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE (SEPTOL). DELEGATES ADOPTED FIVE PRIORITY AREAS WITH WHICH THE PROJECT WILL DEAL:

- A. A STANDARD DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE;
- B. SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND LABORATORY PROCEDURES;
- C. LONG-TERM CARE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES/FACILITIES;
- D. SITE-SELECTION PROCESS (INCLUDING CITIZEN ACCEPTANCE);
- E. SITE PERMIT DECISION PROCESS (INCLUDING LABELING AND FACILITY SAFETY).

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INFORMATION COMPILED ON THE LAST TOPIC WILL BE COORDINAT-

ED BY CANADA FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT. DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON THE ABOVE FIVE AREAS, SEVERAL OF WHICH WILL BE MORE FULLY OUTLINED BY THE USA AND CANADA PRIOR TO THE NEXT FULL PILOT STUDY MEETING IN BONN (FRG) IN MAY 1976. A DRAFT PROJECT REPORT IS EXPECTED BY SPRING 1977. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHN LEHMAN, EPA, US PROJECT DIRECTOR, OPENED THE MEETING BY NOTING THAT THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION WAS TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF THE US-LED PROJECT AND TO IDENTIFY THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH EACH COUNTRY WOULD FEEL ABLE TO MAKE TO THE PROJECT. THE ONLY FORMAL PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY WALTER KOVALICK (EPA), WHO SUMMARIZED THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ON THE POTENTIAL TOPICS FIRST PROPOSED IN OTTAWA. IN A DISCUSSION OF TWELVE PROPOSED TOPICS, DELEGATES AGREED THAT FIVE TOPICS WERE OF HIGHEST PRIORITY, AND SHOULD COMPRISE THE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT:

- A. STANDARD DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE;
- B. SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND LABORATORY PROCEDURES;
- C. LONG-TERM CARE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES;
- D. SITE-SELECTION PROCESS (INCLUDING CITIZEN ACCEPTANCE);
- E. SITE PERMIT DECISION PROCESS (INCLUDING LABELING AND FACILITY SAFETY).

MR. LEHMAN (USA) AND DR. WOLBECK (FRG), AS PROJECT LEADER AND PILOT STUDY DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY, DESCRIBED THE OTHER PROJECTS OF THE HAZARDOUS WASTE PILOT STUDY ON TRANSPORTATION (US), LANDFILL (UK), MINE DISPOSAL (BELGIUM) AND ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (FRG). IN THIS REGARD, THE NAME OF THE GERMAN-LED PROJECT WAS AMENDED TO DROP THE PHRASE "AND MANAGEMENT," AND THE NAME "RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT" WAS ADOPTED FOR THIS US-LED "GUIDELINES" PROJECT. THIS CLARIFICATION WAS MADE TO STRESS THE FACT THAT THE FRG-LED PROJECT WILL ATTEMPT TO DELINEATE A STATE OF THE ART REPORT FOR THE USE OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND A SET OF ORGANIZATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL AND LOCAL DIFFERENCES. THE US-LED PROJECT WILL DEAL WITH OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT FOCUSING ON THE FIVE

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AREAS OUTLINED ABOVE (A-E). CANADA (MAZEROLLE) AGREED TO COORDINATE INFORMATION GATHERED IN AREA "E," FOR THE REPORT.

3. FOLLOWING MR. KOVALICK'S PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION RANGED OVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS IMPINGING ON THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT. DELEGATES AGREED THAT THE PROBLEMS FACING AGREEMENT ON DEFINITIONS WERE FORMIDABLE.

THE FRG (WOLBECK) DREW ATTENTION TO THE DRAFT GLOSSARY ON HAZARDOUS WASTE TERMS PREPARED BY WHO, WHICH THE US, AS PROJECT LEADER, WILL MAKE USE OF IN THIS CCMS PROJECT. AS MR. LEHMAL (USA) NOTED, THE PROJECT REQUIRES CLARIFICATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT, NOT A DEFINITION WHICH ALL COUNTRIES WOULD BE BOUND TO ADOPT FOR ALL PUR-

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POSES.

DELEGATES DISCUSSED THE CO-DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS AND MUNICIPAL WASTES, AND THE DIFFERENT LEGAL BASES ON WHICH HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT RESTS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES. AS THE FRG (WOLBECK) POINTED OUT, IN THE US, EPA MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT A WASTE IS HAZARDOUS. IN THE FRG, THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON THE PRODUCER TO SHOW THAT THE WASTE IS NOT HAZARDOUS. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS FOR REGULATION ARE OBVIOUSLY FAR-REACHING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE USA (LEHMAN) NOTED THAT TRENDS IN US POLICY ARE MORE STRINGENT REGARDING THE STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL;

UNLIMITED STORAGE (MATERIAL STORED FOR SEVERAL YEARS) COULD WELL BE CLASSIFIED AS "DISPOSAL." AGAIN, THE UK (OSMOND) AND FRG (WOLBECK) NOTED THE VARIATIONS IN HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATION FROM ONE STATE (LAND) OR LOCAL AUTHORITY TO THE NEXT, SINCE ROOM FOR INTERPRETATION ALWAYS EXISTS,

4. THE SESSION ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 WAS DEVOTED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THE FIVE PROJECT AREAS. MR. LEHMAN (USA) POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE REALLY TWO HAZARDS INVOLVED: ACUTE AND LONG-TERM. THE FORMER (FLAMMABILITY, EXPLOSIVITY, ETC.) IS MORE READILY IDENTIFIED AND EASIER TO DEAL WITH. THE LATTER (DETERIORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OVER SEVERAL YEARS) IS MORE INSIDIOUS, AND REQUIRES FAR MORE SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY AND EXPENDITURE OF MONEY FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR. IN THE SAMPLING OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, MR. LEHMAN NOTED THAT THERE IS NO STANDARD SAMPLING METHODOLOGY, AND THAT MANY INDUSTRIES DO NOT EVEN KNOW THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR WASTE. CANADA (MAZEROLLE) EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT STANDARD SAMPLING PROCEDURES FOR LONG TERM HAZARDS (ORGANICS) COULD EVER BE DEvised AND NOTED THAT COMPANIES WHICH DO NOT KNOW THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR WASTE USUALLY DO NOT BECAUSE THE ANALYSIS INVOLVED WOULD NOT BE COST-EFFECTIVE AND IS NOT LEGALLY REQUIRED. ALL DELEGATES AGREED THAT A) IT IS VITAL TO KNOW THE COMPOSITION OF THE WASTE (IN VARYING DEGREES OF DETAIL IN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCE); B) "ACUTE" HAZARDS CAN AND SHOULD BE ROUTINELY SAMPLED AND ANALYZED; C) "LONG-TERM" HAZARDS INVOLVE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY AND SOPHISTICATED ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES; AND D) THERE IS A BASIC PROBLEM OF GOVT/INDUSTRY RELATIONS, SINCE PROPRIETARY RIGHTS MUST BE FACTORED IN THE DESIRE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO DO COMPLETE ANALYSES AND DEVELOP STANDARDIZED SAMPLING PROCEDURES.

5. DELEGATES DISCUSSED CRITERIA OF SITE SELECTION AND MONITORING, WHICH WERE SUMMARIZED BY MR. ROULIER (USA). THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON KNOWING THE CHARACTER OF THE WASTE AND OF THE SITE, WHEN ORIGINALLY SELECTING A LOCATION. MONITORING (SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF AIR, WATER AND SOIL) IS THEN A USEFUL TOOL TO DETERMINE IF THE RIGHT DECISION WAS MADE INITIALLY, AND IF LONG OR SHORT-TERM OPERATION AND CARE OF THE SITE IS SUFFICIENT AND SAFE. THE USA WILL PREPARE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTLINE OF THE LONG-TERM CARE AND SITE SELECTION CHARTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE NEXT PILOT STUDY MEETING IN BONN IN MAY 1976.

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6. CANADA (MAZEROLLE) SUMMARIZED ITS WORK IN THE LABEL-
LING OF CHEMICALS AND OUTLINED THE SCOPE OF THE FACILITY
SAFETY AREA. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IS APPLYING

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THE STANDARD SAFETY PROCEDURES OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
TO HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES. CANADA WILL PREPARE A DETAILED
OUTLINE OF THIS PROJECT AREA FOR THE BONN MEETING DIS-
CUSSIONS.

7. IN CONCLUSION, DELEGATE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING
TIMETABLE FOR THE PROJECT:

FEBRUARY-MAY, 1976: CONTRIBUTIONS ON DEFINITION, SAMP-
LING AND ANALYSIS, CITIZEN ACCEPT-

ANCE, AND LABELLING DUE TO THE USA
AND CANADA.

FEBRUARY 1976: CANADA WILL SEND OUTLINE OF PERMIT
PROCESS AND FACILITY SAFETY AREAS.
USA WILL DISTRIBUTE OUTLINE OF LONG-
TERM CARE AND SITE SELECTION PROCESS

APRIL 10, 1976: REACTIONS TO ABOVE OUTLINES DUE FROM
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO USA AND
CANADA.

MAY 10-13, 1976: BONN PILOT PROJECT EXPERTS MEETING
DISCUSSIONS ON ABOVE OUTLINES AND
FINAL DELINEATION OF TOPICS.

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SPRING, 1977: DRAFT PROJECT REPORT

SUMMER, 1977: FINAL PROJECT REPORT

FALL, 1977: CCMS PLENARY--FINAL PILOT STUDY
REPORT

8. THE US (LEHMAN) AND THE FRG (WOLBECK) THANKED THE UK
FOR THE EXCELLENT FACILITIES PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF
THE PILOT STUDY THIS WEEK IN LONDON AND EXPRESSED THEIR
CONVICTION THAT THIS MEETING HAD DONE MUCH TO DEEPEN UN-
DERSTANDING AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AMONG THE EXPERTS OF
THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

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